



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 252-6933

http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Press_Releases/index.html

District Woman Pleads Guilty to Theft Charge In Connection With Her Role in Credit Card Scheme

WASHINGTON - Anita Edwards, 40, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty today to a charge of first degree theft stemming from her role in a credit card scheme, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Edwards entered the pre-indictment guilty plea in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The Honorable Henry H. Kennedy, Jr. scheduled her sentencing for May 19, 2011. She faces a possible statutory sentence of up to 10 years of incarceration, a \$5,000 fine, and three years of supervised release. Under federal sentencing guidelines, she faces a likely sentence of up to six months of incarceration.

According to information presented to the Court by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, beginning in 2005, a group of individuals conspired to steal the identifying information of numerous people, use that information to illegally obtain credit accounts, and use those accounts to acquire merchandise, pay for services, and pay for D.C. parking tickets.

In connection with the scheme, Edwards wrongfully received a \$500 store gift card on a store credit account at Victoria's Secret. The credit account was underwritten by World Financial Capitol Bank. The gift card was, in fact, nonfunctional.

Seven other individuals have previously pleaded guilty in connection with this case.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the work of those who investigated the case from the District of Columbia Office of Inspector General, Washington Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Washington Field Office of the U.S. Secret Service, and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

Page -2-

U.S. Attorney Machen praised the efforts of Special Agent Bernadette Todd-Atwater, of the D.C. Inspector General's Office; Postal Inspector Dean Davis, Special Agent Chris Macomber, of the Secret Service, and MPD Detective Michael Pavero. He also acknowledged the efforts of the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Paralegal Jared Forney, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, who is prosecuting the cases.

11-100

###